

What is claimed is:

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data

3. The method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said steps a) through f) are repeated until all of said data records in said source database have been processed.

5 4. The method as recited in Claim 3 further comprising the steps of:
g) redesignating said second database as said source database and said first database as said target database; and
h) performing said steps a) through f) repeatedly until all of said data records in said source database have been processed.

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5. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step c) comprises the steps of:

updating said corresponding data record in said target database according to said first data record in said source database, provided that said
15 first modification flag is set to indicate that said first data record has been modified in said source database and that said corresponding data record exists in said target database; and
clearing said first modification flag.

20 6. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step c) comprises the steps of:

creating a new data record in said target database according to said first data record in said source database, provided that said first modification flag is set to indicate that said first data record is new in said source database and that
25 said corresponding data record does not exist in said target database; and
clearing said first modification flag.

7. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step c) comprises the step of marking said corresponding data record as deleted in said target database, provided that said first modification flag is set to indicate that said first data record has been deleted from said source database and that said
5 corresponding data record exists and is not already marked as deleted in said target database.

8. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said first database and said second database reside in different host systems.
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9. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said first database resides in a personal digital assistant (PDA).

10. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said second database
15 resides in a computer system to which a personal digital assistant (PDA) can be coupled via a cradle device.

11. A computer system comprising a processor coupled to a bus and a memory unit coupled to said bus, said memory unit having stored therein
20 instructions that when executed implement a method for synchronizing data records between databases, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) designating a first database as a source database and a second database as a target database, said first database residing in said memory unit of said computer system;
- 25 b) examining a first modification flag of a first data record in said source database;

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e) provided that said first modification count has a higher value than said second modification count, updating said corresponding data record according to said first data record, wherein said steps a) through e) can be completed without comparing raw data of said first data record and said corresponding data record.

12. The computer system as recited in Claim 11 wherein said method further comprises the step f) of incrementing said second modification count to said higher value of said first modification count.

13. The computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said steps a) through f) of said method are repeated until all of said data records in said source database have been processed.

14. The computer system as recited in Claim 13 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

g) redesignating said second database as said source database and said first database as said target database; and

15. The computer system as recited in Claim 11 wherein said step c)
5 of said method comprises the steps of:

16. The computer system as recited in Claim 11 wherein said step c) of said method comprises the steps of:

15 creating a new data record in said target database according to said first data record in said source database, provided that said first modification flag is set to indicate that said first data record is new in said source database and that said corresponding data record does not exist in said target database; and

clearing said first modification flag.

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19. The computer system as recited in Claim 11 wherein said
5 computer system is a personal digital assistant (PDA).

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15 a) designating a first database as a source database and a second database as a target database;

c) provided that said first modification flag is set, propagating said
20 first data record to said target database;

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5 e) provided that said first modification count has a higher value than said second modification count, updating said corresponding data record according to said first data record, wherein said steps a) through e) can be completed without comparing raw data of said first data record and said corresponding data record.

10 22. The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 21 wherein said method further comprises the step f) of incrementing said second modification count to said higher value of said first modification count.

23. The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 22 wherein said steps a) through f) of said method are repeated until all of said data records in said source database have been processed.

15 24. The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 23 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

g) redesignating said second database as said source database and said first database as said target database; and
h) performing said steps a) through f) repeatedly until all of said data
20 records in said source database have been processed.

25 25. The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 21 wherein said step c) of said method comprises the steps of:

updating said corresponding data record in said target database
25 according to said first data record in said source database, provided that said first modification flag is set to indicate that said first data record has been

modified in said source database and that said corresponding data record exists in said target database; and

clearing said first modification flag.

5 26. The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 21 wherein said step c) of said method comprises the steps of:

 creating a new data record in said target database according to said first data record in said source database, provided that said first modification flag is set to indicate that said first data record is new in said source database and that
10 said corresponding data record does not exist in said target database; and
 clearing said first modification flag.

 27. The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 21 wherein said step c) of said method comprises the step of marking said corresponding
15 data record as deleted in said target database, provided that said first modification flag is set to indicate that said first data record has been deleted from said source database and that said corresponding data record exists and is not already marked as deleted in said target database.

20 28. The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 21 wherein said first database and said second database reside in different host systems.

 29. The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 21 wherein said first database resides in a personal digital assistant (PDA).

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